

into ashy grey on the sides of the neck, which, like the chest, are entirely ashy grey; rest of undersurface yellow, whitish in centre of breast; flanks and under tail-coverts entirely yellow; sides of upper breast greenish; under wing-coverts yellowish white, the outermost entirely white, with a small dusky patch near outer margin. Total length 3·7 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 1·85, tail 1·3, tarsus 0·55.

This species is easily recognized by its grey breast and yellow flanks. I do not adopt Lesson's title of *mexicanus* for this bird, although the oldest, as it only misleads. The British Museum contains a specimen, bought at the sale of the collection of the late Baron Laugier de Chartrouse, said to be from Mexico, which agrees with Dr. Bryant's specimens from Porto Rico.

Specimens examined.

E. Mus. Brit.—*a*, *ad.* Porto Rico (*Bryant*). *b*. "Mexico."

E. Mus. P. L. Sclater.—*a*, *ad.* Porto Rico (*Bryant*). *b*, *ad.* Porto Rico (*Latimer*).

E. Mus. Salvin and Godman.—*a*, *ad.* Porto Rico (*George Swift*).

XXXVIII.—*List of Birds collected or observed during a journey into the Matabili Country in 1873.* By T. E. BUCKLEY, F.Z.S. &c.

BEFORE proceeding with my list, it may be as well to write a short account of our journey and the line of country traversed.

We left Pietermaritzburg with our waggons on the 13th of May, and arrived at Newcastle, distant 160 miles, about the end of the month. Newcastle is a small town near the borders of the colony, and probably derives its name from the fact of coal being found close by. Except on the coast-line, Natal is almost wholly open country, patches of bush, some large, but mostly small, occurring here and there on the slopes of the valleys. Here our troubles began, as our two natives had only been hired for that distance, and would go no further; however, having by this time learnt something of "in-

spanning" bullocks, we, with our white driver, an Englishman, pushed on by ourselves. At the foot of the Berg, as the Drakenberg is generally called, we found a small Kafir boy, who had run away from a Dutchman; him we pressed into our service, crossed the ridge, and soon after entered the Transvaal. Here we unfortunately lost our bullocks for eight days; and as we were out of the game-country, and there were very few birds indeed, our situation was by no means enviable; fuel, which consisted of dried bullock-dung, was scarce, and the nights piercingly cold, accompanied by frost and ice. During this time we had offered a reward for the oxen; and one evening, to our intense delight, they made their appearance, and we soon left the scene of our misfortunes behind. In two or three days, during which time we did a little shooting, we crossed the Vaal river at a place called Stander's Drift, and at length, on the 28th of June, reached Pretoria, the capital of Transvaal, without further mishap than the loss of four bullocks, and one stick-fast, when we had to "off-load" the waggon.

The part of the Transvaal through which we had travelled, is what is called the "High Veldt;" it is an undulating plain, in the summer covered with grass, but no trees, except a few that have been planted round the farm-houses; but once having passed Pretoria you enter the bush. We left that town on the night of the 30th of June, crossed the Limpopo, or rather the Crocodile (as it does not rejoice in the name of Limpopo until after it is joined by the Marico), and took a north-westerly direction across the Pilansberg until we again joined the Crocodile river; we soon after crossed the Marico, a small river with very sloping banks, and altogether an extremely bad drift for waggons, followed the Limpopo for about two more days, and then, leaving the river, steered for Bamangwato, which we reached towards the end of July. Here we stayed for a few days, getting fresh bullocks and laying in some necessary stores, and again set out in the first week in August for the Matabili country. We had at first intended to go to Lake N'gami; but we found at Baman-gwato that, on account of the want of water, with our tired

bullocks and inexperience of the country, it would be madness to attempt it; so we agreed to try the Matabili country instead. At this place we luckily engaged a boy to go with us—a very necessary precaution, as, although the road in most places is well defined, yet, unless you have some one who knows the water-holes, you may often run very short of that necessary article. All the rivers from here to beyond the Tatti, which is the supposed boundary between the Baman-gwato and Matabili countries, are sand-rivers, and water is very often only to be had by digging. At a place called Serule we heard from some Dutchmen there was a short cut thence to the place we wished to go to; so we tried it; but on arriving at a river called the Mackloetze, we heard from the natives that we had great danger of getting into the “fly” (that is, places infested by the “tsetsi”), so turned back and went by the regular route to the Tatti. We met with the greatest kindness here from Mr. Neilson, the manager of the Gold-fields, and Mr. Brown, both of whom helped us with bullocks and gave us every assistance and advice. We left the Tatti on the 1st of September, and at last arrived at the Samouqui river, where we made our camp, as this was our furthest point. We stayed here some three weeks, hunting and collecting, and returned early in October, going back by the same route that we came.

I was very much disappointed as to the birds; they were few in number; and (although I might have got more, especially among the Warblers and smaller Finches) yet, I think, the collection I brought back will be found by any future traveller over the same ground to be fairly comprehensive. Want of water is, of course, the chief reason of this paucity of animal life; for the same remarks will apply to insects, the only one that was seen in any great abundance being a species of beetle.

For the benefit of any member of the British Ornithologists' Union who may intend to visit these parts, I here give a list of the rivers crossed, and where water may be found during the end of winter (that is, about August):—Mahalapsee, water above and below the road, easily got by cleaning out

the old holes ; Meathly and Towanni, the same, but in the former the water lies rather deeper ; Lotsani, uncertain, and not to be got by digging, just before we were there a shower had filled up one or two holes ; Palatzzi, a water-hole below the road, also uncertain ; Serule, generally water, but at a great depth, it has a most unpleasant smell, which seems to go off after a time ; Gooqui, water close to the road ; Lotlakani, no water ; Skribe, Mackloetze, and Shashai, water to be had easily by digging ; Tatti, water some distance down the river from the road ; Ramaqueban, water near the road, to be had by digging ; Imquisi, water to be got by digging, but rather deep ; Dry River, water very deep down, we got ours out of some holes dug by elephants ; Samouqui, water in plenty.

The nomenclature adopted for the Accipitres is that of Mr. Sharpe's recently published 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum, vol. i. (1874) : that for the other families is taken from the same gentleman's 'Catalogue of African Birds' (1871), or Mr. Layard's 'Birds of South Africa' (1867), unless stated to the contrary.

1876
122 *GYPs KOLBII* (Daud.). - *Lophogyps vociferans*

Not a very common species, and I never saw more than a pair together. They frequent wooded districts and breed in trees. After much difficulty and tearing my cloths and hands, I took an egg out of a large nest in a mimosa-tree from which the hen flew off. I fired at her, but, as she went some distance before dropping, I did not get her. The egg resembles that of *V. cinereus*.

1876
132 *GYPs RUEPPELLI*, Brehm. - *Gypso Kolbii*

Extremely common from Natal up to the Matabili country. On the high veldt of the Transvaal they seem to understand that the report of a rifle means something to eat ; and while skinning an animal I have had a cloud of these birds waiting about one hundred yards off until I finished and left them the carcass.

NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS (L.).

I saw a few of these birds ; but they were very scarce in comparison with the Griffons.

SERPENTARIUS SECRETARIUS (Scop.).

I only met with this bird on two or three occasions in the Transvaal; and I saw one pair near the Limpopo.

CIRCUS RANIVORUS (Daud.).

♀. Natal, May 21st, 1873.

♀. Pietermaritzburg, April 22nd, 1873.

Beak horn-colour; legs yellow; iris light yellow. The second female had the beak black; legs yellow; iris hazel.

Common through Natal and the Transvaal in the open country, frequenting both marsh and high ground. Its flight and habits resemble those of our Hen-Harrier. There seems to be no difference in the plumage of the sexes; at least I never saw a white male.

MELIERAX CANORUS (Risl.).

a, b, ♂, ♀. Transvaal, July 10th 1873.

Cere, gape, and base of bill orange-red, the rest of the latter black; feet orange-red; iris dark hazel.

Very common in the low bushy parts of the Transvaal. I have seen them hunting quite late in the evening, flying low over the ground with a dashing sort of flight, when they have the appearance of a large male *Circus cyaneus*. One of the specimens I procured was very tame, allowing me to walk up and shoot it off a tree.

MELIERAX GABAR (Daud.).

♂, *adult*. Transvaal, July 5th, 1873.

Cere red, rest of beak black; legs orange-red; iris dark hazel.

♂, *young*. Transvaal, July 5th, 1873.

Cere red, rest of beak black; legs orange-red; iris light yellow.

♀, *in moult*. Transvaal, November 29th, 1873.

A common Hawk throughout the Transvaal after entering the bush-country. Its flight resembles that of *Accipiter nisus*.

MELIERAX NIGER (Bonn. & Vieill.).

This bird I only saw twice—once on the Limpopo; and once in the Bamangwato district; on both occasions it was flying with great swiftness.

HELOTARSUS ECAUDATUS (Daud.).

This seemed to be the commonest Eagle from the Limpopo to the Matabili country; but it was very shy, and I never could obtain a specimen. Its flight is very graceful, soaring about without much movement of the wings; its black body, with the white underneath the wings, and bright red legs, make it a very conspicuous object when flying.

HALIAETUS VOCIFER (Daud.).

I saw one or two pairs on the Limpopo, when they appeared to be breeding; but they were not common; they seem to be much more abundant in the Zulu country.

MILVUS MIGRANS (Bodd.) et auctt. recc.

M. korschun (Gm.), Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. p. 322*.

Very common through the Bamangwato and Matabili country; but it is not until the rainy season that they appear in any numbers. We saw an immense quantity one day in November, after a heavy shower of rain, together with a few Buzzards, feeding on the swarms of young locusts which covered the ground.

ELANUS CÆRULEUS (Desf.).

Fairly common in Natal. I saw several pairs one day along the banks of the Mooi river; but they would not allow of an approach within gun-shot.

FALCO BIARMICUS (Temm.).

By no means common. One specimen was procured in Natal; and I saw another pair one morning in the Transvaal. These latter were remarkably tame; but as I had only a rifle with me, I did not fire.

TINNUNCULUS RUPICOLA (Daud.).

Cerchneis rupicola, Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 429†.

♂. River Tugela, Natal, May 21st, 1873.

Beak horn-colour; legs yellow; iris dark hazel.

* [As J. F. Gmelin's title *korschun* cannot with certainty be applied to this Kite, or any other Hawk, Boddaert's name, by which the Black Kite is known to nearly all modern writers, had best be adhered to.—ED.]

† [Mr. Sharpe states that *Falco columbarius* is the type of Vieillot's genus *Tinnunculus*. This is not necessarily the case, as *Falco sparverius* has equal claim. As Vieillot called both birds Cresserelles, and used Lin-

Common through Natal and the Transvaal. In flight and habits it resembles the common Kestrel.

TINNUNCULUS TINNUNCULOIDES (Temm.).

Cerchneis naumanni, Sharpe, Cat. B. i. p. 435*.

♂. Limpopo, November 14, 1873.

Beak horn-colour; legs dark yellow; iris dark hazel.

CARINE PERLATA (Vieill.).

Athene perlata, Gurn. And. B. Damara Land, p. 37.

Athene licua, Licht.; Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 38.

♂. Tatti, Matabili-land, September 1st, 1873.

Common from the north of Pretoria into the Matabili country. Their flight resembles that of a Woodpecker.

OTUS CAPENSIS (Smith); Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 43.

a, ♂. Natal, May 25th, 1873.

b, ♀. Transvaal, June 8th, 1873.

Beak black; iris dark hazel.

Quite the commonest Owl in Natal and the Transvaal. Like our own Short-eared Owl, this species, when disturbed during the daytime, flies well; but it is not until just about dark that it comes forth of its own accord. Almost any evening it might be seen hunting over ground intersected by a "spruit;" this it seems to prefer marshy ground. I never heard it utter any cry. Its flight resembles that of the common Short-eared Owl. This species was not observed north of Pretoria.

næus's specific name of the Kestrel for the genus, there can be no doubt the generic name *Tinnunculus* should be applied to the Kestrels with *T. sparverius* as the type.—ED.]

* [Mr. Sharpe's sole authority for employing this name rests on a footnote in Naumann's *Naturg. der Vög. Deutschl.* i. p. 318, where we find it said "*Cenchrus*. Emerillon roux. Der kleinste rothe Falke. Frisch Vögel. t. 89.=Sylvan, v. Laurop und Fischer, Jahrg. 1818. S. unter dem Nahmen *Falco Naumanni* v. G. Fleischer." From this it would appear that not even Naumann himself had consulted this obscure periodical.

Temminck's name *tinnunculoides* (1820) is the oldest certainly applicable to the Lesser Kestrel. Those who cannot bring themselves to use this word in connexion with the generic name *Tinnunculus* can take Naumann's title *Cenchrus*.—ED.]

STRIX CAPENSIS, Smith.

♂. Transvaal, June 8th, 1873.

Beak ivory-white; iris dark hazel.

I only procured this one example, which was shot by my friend in a marsh among some long reeds.

BUBO VERREAUXI, Bp.

♀. Limpopo, July 22nd, 1873.

Beak ivory-white; iris dark hazel, with a narrow orange-red rim round.

This fine Owl is very common from the Transvaal as far as the Matibili land, haunting the sides of rivers, away from which localities I never saw it. These Owls generally go in pairs; but I once saw five together, out of which I procured my specimen: after the first disturbance they get more wary. I fancy they breed in old nests of other birds, as I once saw an Owl sitting in one.

STRIX POENSIS, Fras.; Gurney, in Anderss. B. Damara Land, p. 36.

♂. Palatzi, Bamangwato, October 20, 1873.

Beak white; iris dark hazel.

This specimen, which was shot by my companion among some trees near a water-hole, was the only one seen.

EPHIALTES LEUCOTIS (Temm.).

♀. Serule, Bamangwato, August 23rd, 1873.

Beak yellowish white; iris deep orange.

Not a very common species, I imagine, hereabouts, as this was the only one seen. It was sitting among some small mimosa trees, and from its very upright position, when at rest, was very difficult to distinguish from the stump of a branch.

CAPRIMULGUS RUFIGENA, Smith.

♂. Bamangwato, October 13th, 1873.

Beak black; legs flesh-colour; iris dark hazel.

This is the only species of Goatsucker we obtained; and it was common from the Limpopo, where we only found it in the rainy season, far into the Matabili country. It has a jarring note, like *C. europæus*, and is fond of settling in the paths. It roosts on the ground during the day. I once

found two eggs of this species on the bare ground in an open space in the bush; the bird was on the eggs, which were pink, spotted all over with greyish brown.

MEROPS APIASTER, L.

♂. River Meathly, Bamangwato, October 24, 1873.

Beak black; legs dark brown; iris crimson.

This species was only observed on one occasion, when it appeared to be migrating. On that day I saw several large flocks hawking about after flies and occasionally settling on the small bushes. The note of all the Bee-eaters I have met with seems to be almost exactly the same.

MEROPS PUSILLUS (Müll.).

♂. Transvaal, November 29th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

I saw one or two pairs of this species on the banks of the Limpopo on my way up, and another pair or two on the Samouqui river, in the Matabili country. They were plentiful in comparatively open country in the north of the Transvaal on our way down, and were to be seen sitting, singly or in pairs, on a small branch of a bush on the look-out for insects, which they caught on the wing. I once saw a small party of about eight together.

MEROPS BULLOCKOIDES, Smith.

♂. Transvaal, July 1st, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

Common through the north of Transvaal. On my return I found them breeding in the banks of the Limpopo, perhaps seven or eight pairs in one colony.

1879
290

CORACIAS NÆVIA, Daud.

♂. Matabili, October 6th, 1873.

♀. Transvaal, July 1st, 1873.

Beak black; Legs yellow; iris dark hazel.

Fairly common; generally seen singly or in pairs. It resembles *C. caudata* in its habits and flight. I have seen the young of the latter about the middle of November, evidently not long out of the nest; so the Rollers must be amongst the earliest breeders.

CORACIAS CAUDATA, V.

♂. Transvaal, July 7th 1873.

Beak black; legs yellow; iris dark hazel.

First observed a few days north of Pretoria, and found far up in the Matabili country. This species is extremely shy, and it was difficult to procure specimens. Just before the breeding-season they fly high up in the air, rolling about from side to side, and uttering a harsh note all the time, settling afterwards on the very top of the nearest high tree. In the Matabili country this is a royal bird, and no one except the king is allowed to wear its feathers.

CORYTHORNIS CYANOSTIGMA (Rüpp.).

♀. Transvaal, June 19th, 1873.

Beak and legs red; iris dark hazel.

Common throughout Natal and the Transvaal, frequenting pools and streams, but always singly; when wounded they swim fairly well.

CERYLE RUDIS (L.).

♂. Natal, June 1st, 1873.

Beak black; legs black; iris dark hazel.

This bird is pretty common in Natal, but much more so on the Limpopo, in the north of the Transvaal, where I found its nest in a hole of the bank, but as the ground was hard, I was unable to get the eggs. Its absence from the Matabili country is accounted for by the rivers being mostly sand-rivers in the part of the country I visited. When hunting, it hovers over the water with a quick action of the wings. Its cry is shrill and often repeated.

HALCYON ALBIVENTRIS (Scop.).

Beak and legs red; iris dark hazel.

Very common along the rivers north of Pretoria, though seen to wander some distance from water. This species was breeding along the banks of the Limpopo in November; and my driver brought me in three eggs which he had dug out of a bank, having caught the old bird on her nest. Judging from the mud on the bills of those I shot, they must pick up their food from the ground as well as off trees.

HALCYON CHELICUTENSIS (Stanl.).

♂. Transvaal, July 13th, 1873.

Beak and legs red; iris dark hazel.

HALCYON CYANOLEUCA (V.).

♂, ♀. Limpopo, November 1873.

Upper mandible red, lower mandible black; legs black, inside of foot reddish; iris dark hazel.

Very common during our journey down in the summer, but not seen in the winter. It is rather a shy bird, and continually utters a monotonous whistle. I did not meet with this species, except on the Limpopo, where these birds are most conspicuous objects when on the wing.

TOCCUS NASUTUS (L.).

a, ♂ ad. Limpopo, November 12, 1873.

Beak black, with a white streak on upper mandible; legs dark olive brown; iris dark hazel.

b, ♂ juv. Bamangwato, August 7th, 1873.

Beak white above, black below, yellowish red at the tip of both mandibles; legs black; iris reddish brown.

TOCCUS ERYTHORHYNCHUS (Gm.).

a, ♀. Matabili, September 5th, 1873.

Beak red; legs black; iris light yellow.

TOCCUS FLAVIROSTRIS (Rüpp.).

a, b, ♂ ♀. Transvaal, July 7th, 1873.

Beak yellow; legs black; iris yellowish white.

Hornbills were very common from the north of the Transvaal through the Bamangwato country. All the three species above mentioned were shot at random from among the numbers noticed; and I should say they were all equally plentiful. My experience agrees with Andersson's excellent account of these Hornbills (B. Dam. Ld. p. 207, *et seq.*).

UPUPA MINOR, Gm.

♂. Transvaal, July 6th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

Common in the bush country north of Pretoria; but I do not remember seeing it further than Bamangwato. It is

rather a shy bird, the note and habits being the same as those of *U. epops*.

IRRISOR CYANOMELAS, V.

♂. Bamangwato, August 5th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

Fairly common through the Bamangwato and Matabili countries; and I fancy I have seen it along the Limpopo river. A good account of its habits will be found in Andersson's 'Birds of Damara Land.'

SCHIZORHIS CONCOLOR (Sw.).

α, ♀. Transvaal, July 1st, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

A very common species throughout the Transvaal and up to the Matabili country. They go about in small flocks; and their peculiar cry, something like the mewing of a cat, often betrays their presence. They often raise and lower the crest, and are not very easy to see by reason of their colour.

CENTROPUS SENEGALENSIS (L.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1873, p. 617.

♂. River Palatzi, Bamangwato, October 20th, 1873.

Beak black; legs dark grey; iris crimson.

First observed on the Crocodile river, but was also found in all suitable places as far into the Matabili as I went. Being fond of hiding itself, it is not often seen unless accidentally flushed; but its loud note betrays its presence. It inhabits the thick reeds and bushes wherever there is water, far from which it is never found.

CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS, H. & E.; Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1873, p. 620.

♂. Transvaal, July 5th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark red.

I confounded this species with *C. senegalensis*, its note, and, as far as I know, its habits and localities being the same as those of that bird.

CUCULUS GULARIS (Steph.); Sharpe, P. Z. S. 1873, p. 585.

♂. River Meathly, Bamangwato, October 24th, 1873.

The tip and most of upper mandible black, the rest orange-yellow; legs chrome-yellow; iris dead gold; cere yellow.

Only observed in this place, but was probably migrating. It is shy and restless, continually flying from one tree to another, generally in the same line of flight. It flies like our common Cuckoo, but rather more deliberately; its note, too, in the same manner, is more slowly uttered, the first syllable not being in such a high key.

CUCULUS CLAMOSUS, Lath.; Sharpe, P.Z.S. 1873, p. 587.

a, ♂. Bamangwato, November 6th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

A common species through Bamangwato and the Transvaal. Its note may be heard almost any time of the day or night.

CUCULUS CUPREUS, Bodd.; Sharpe, P.Z.S. 1873, p. 591.

♂. Bamangwato, river Towanni, October 23rd, 1873.

Beak black; legs brownish black; iris dark red.

Very commonly seen during our return journey, from which it appears the bird is a summer visitant. I found it throughout the Bamangwato and North Transvaal districts.

COCCYSTES JACOBINUS (Bodd.); Sharpe, P.Z.S. 1873, p. 597.

a, ♀. Limpopo, November 15th, 1873.

Beak black; legs lead-colour; iris dark hazel.

b, ♂. Transvaal, November 20th, 1873.

Beak and legs black.

Very common, but a summer bird, as we only saw it on our way down.

POGONORHYNCHUS LEUCOMELAS (Bodd.); Marshall, Monogr. Capit. pl. 12.

♂. Transvaal, July 10th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

Found from the north of the Transvaal into the Matabili country. These Barbets were first seen about the trees in Pretoria.

POGONORHYNCHUS TORQUATUS (Dumont); Marshall, Monogr. Capit. pl. x.

♂. Transvaal, July 2nd, 1873.

Beak black; legs black; iris dark hazel.

This specimen was shot by my companion close to the Limpopo, near Pretoria; and as it was the only one obtained, it must be, there at least, a rare bird.

TRACHYPHONUS CAFER (V.); Marshall, Monogr. Capit. pl. lvi.

a, ♂. Transvaal, July 8th, 1873.

Beak greenish yellow; legs black; iris dark red.

b, ♀. Limpopo river, November 15th, 1873.

Beak greenish yellow; legs lead-colour; iris reddish.

This species is very common north of Pretoria, all along the Limpopo river; but I did not observe it beyond Bamangwato. It creeps along the boughs of the trees like a Woodpecker, for which I often mistook it; it is by no means a shy bird.

INDICATOR SPARRMANNI, Steph.

a, ♂. Limpopo, November 16th, 1873.

Bill whitish; legs lead-colour; iris dark yellow.

Found from the north of the Transvaal to the Matabili country. Extremely pertinacious in its habit of following one in order to conduct to a bee's nest, chattering incessantly until it gains its point or is knocked over with the gun. The natives, however, strongly object to their being shot.

DENDROBATES NAMAQUUS (Licht.).

♂. Transvaal, July 7th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark red.

This was one of a pair that were making their nest; they were very tame.

DENDROBATES CARDINALIS (Gm.).

a, ♂. Bamangwato, November 5th, 1873.

Beak black; legs bluish grey; iris dark red.

b, ♂. Transvaal, July 3, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark red.

DENDROPICUS HARTLAUBI, Malh.

a, ♀. Natal, May 22, 1873.

Beak black; legs greenish grey; iris dark red.

GEOCOLAPTES OLIVACEUS (Lath.).

♂. Natal, May 19th, 1873.

♀. Transvaal, July 8th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris orange. The female has the iris dark red.

Common in Natal, frequenting the open hills and sitting among the stones. I never noticed it among trees. These birds generally go about in parties of six or seven, probably the old birds and their young.

PSITTACUS MEYERI (Rüpp.).

♂. Matabili, September 7th 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris brown.

This was the only Parrot seen during the journey. It is common from the north-west of the Transvaal to the Matabili country. These birds are seen either in pairs or small parties, and are not shy. Their cry is a very shrill note, repeated several times, and generally uttered when flying ; their flight is extremely rapid, during which time the blue on the rump is very conspicuous.

TURDUS LITSITSIRUPA, Smith.

♀. Transvaal, July 2nd, 1873.

Lower part of under mandible yellowish, the rest dark horn-colour ; legs light brown ; iris dark hazel.

Not very often seen by me, but, from its retiring ways, may be commoner than it appeared.

PYCNONOTUS NIGRICANS (V.).

Transvaal, July 2nd, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark claret.

Common throughout the country. There seem to be two sorts, one with a flesh-coloured cere round the eye. These birds generally go in small parties.

MONTICOLA RUPESTRIS (Cuv.).

α, ♀. Natal, May 18th, 1873.

Bill and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Common throughout Natal, where it may be seen sitting on stones by the roadsides, in pairs or families. In its flight and habit of flirting its tail it resembles the Wheatear.

CRATEROPUS BICOLOR (Jard.).

♀. Bamangwato, October 16th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris reddish orange.

Common throughout the north of the Transvaal into the Matabili country, and first met with at Eland's river. The habits of this and of *C. jardinii* are similar. They go in flocks from tree to tree, following each other almost in single file. When one commences its peculiar sort of chuckling note, it is followed by the others, the noise increasing until it is almost deafening. They creep about the bushes with wonderful care ; and if a wounded one gets into a tree, it is extremely difficult to retrieve it. They have a skimming sort of flight.

CRATEROPUS JARDINII, Smith.

♀ . Transvaal, July 3rd, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris yellow with a black rim.

The description of the habits of *C. bicolor* will answer equally for this species. I took a nest of this bird on the banks of the Limpopo, on the 23rd of November. It contained but one egg ; but the parent bird was close to the nest, which was about the size of a Blackbird's, deep and coarsely lined, and placed in a small but very thorny tree. The eggs were of a blue colour, like a Thrush's, without spots.

COSSYPHA CAFFRA (L.).

♀ . Transvaal, July 2nd, 1873.

Beak black ; legs black ; iris dark hazel.

COSSYPHA HUMERALIS (Smith).

Bessonornis humeralis (Smith) : Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 132.

♂ . Makalapse River, Bamangwato, October 25th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs brownish black ; iris dark hazel.

I observed a pair of these birds on a small stony hill, and procured the male. They were not at all shy ; but from the thickness of the cover it was difficult to get far enough off to shoot them without spoiling them. They flew and hopped about the bushes in search of food, but seemed to avoid the open ground.

MYRMECOCICHLA FORMICIVORA (V.).

♂ ♀ . Bushman's River, Natal, May 21st, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Common throughout the colony of Natal as well as the Transvaal, sitting about on the small ant-heaps. It resembles *Saxicola monticola* in its habits.

SAXICOLA MONTICOLA, V.

a, ♀. Natal, May 21, 1873.

Bill and feet black.

b, ♂. Transvaal, June 16th, 1873.

Bill and feet black; iris light brown.

Very common throughout the "High Veldt" portion of the Transvaal. They sit in pairs on the small ant-hills, and have a habit, the male more especially, of soaring a short distance and then dropping quite suddenly, sometimes on to the ground, at others to within a short distance, and then skimming along a considerable way. During the breeding-season, as well as during summer or winter, the pair were generally to be seen sitting together.

SAXICOLA LEUCOMELÆNA, Burch.

a, ♂. Natal, May 22nd, 1873.

Beak black; legs black; iris dark hazel.

SAXICOLA FAMILIARIS, Steph.

♂. Natal, May 22nd, 1873.

I believe I observed this bird in the Matabili country, hopping about our cattle-kraal like a Robin.

SAXICOLA PILEATA (Gm.).

♂. Newcastle, Natal, June 5th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

I found a good number of these birds one day, but those I procured were all males. They have a very pretty song.

SAXICOLA BIFASCIATA, Temm.

♂. Natal, December 20th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

I saw several pairs of these birds near the foot of the Drakenberg, where they were breeding. Their habits and haunts are like our Stonechat, as far as I had the opportunity of observing them.

BRADYORNIS MARIQUENSIS, Smith.

♂. Bamangwato, August 22nd, 1873.

♀. Transvaal, July 4th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

A common bird throughout the north of the Transvaal. Its habits and appearance resemble those of the Spotted Fly-catcher, for which I at first mistook it.

SIGELUS SILENS (Shaw).

♂. Transvaal, July 2nd, 1873.

Beak black; legs black; iris dark hazel.

Common throughout the north-west of the Transvaal, and in the Bamangwato district.

AEDON PENA (Smith).

♀. Transvaal, July 3rd, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

♀. Bamangwato, November 5th, 1873.

Beak brown; legs light brown; iris hazel.

Common throughout the north of the Transvaal and in the Bamangwato district, where they may be found along the banks of the sand-rivers; they are very tame.

AEDON LEUCOPHRYS (V.).

♂. Bamangwato, October 24th, 1873.

Lower part of under mandible yellowish brown, rest black; legs dark brown; iris dark hazel.

This species is one of the commonest Warblers in the Bamangwato district, and is generally to be seen in pairs. The male has a very pretty song.

CISTICOLA TERRESTRIS, Smith.

α, ♀. Pietermaritzburg, April 30th, 1873.

Iris hazel.

Extremely common throughout Natal and the Transvaal, living among the long dead grass in the open veldt; its flight is weak and jerky, seldom extended far.

DRYMŒCA NATALENSIS, Smith: Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 87.

♂. Pietermaritzburg, Natal, May 2nd, 1873.

Culmen of beak black, the rest yellow ; legs light brown ; iris dark hazel.

I only observed this one specimen, which I shot among some reeds by a small stream ; it was rather shy.

DRYMŒCA CHENIANA, Smith.

a, ♂. Bamangwato, October 6th, 1873.

Beak brown ; legs very light brown ; iris light hazel.

This specimen agrees best with a Transvaal example of *D. cheniana* in Mr. Sharpe's collection, and is accordingly determined as above. This bird is found in the Matabili country ; and, from the date at which it is to be met with, it must be rather independent of water.

DRYMŒCA FASCIOLATA, Smith.

Gooqui, Bamangwato, October 16th, 1873.

Legs light brown.

CAMAROPTERA BREVICAUDATA (Rüpp.).

a, ♂. Limpopo, November 12th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs light brown ; iris brown.

Shot while flitting about in a tree, much after the manner of our English Willow-Wren.

SYLVIETTA RUFESCENS (V.).

a, ♂. Transvaal, July 1st, 1873.

Beak and legs brown ; iris light hazel.

b. Palatzi, Bamangwato, October 20, 1873.

PARUS AFER, Gm.

♂. Matabili, September 28th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs lead-colour ; iris dark hazel.

A very common species throughout the Matabili and Bamangwato districts. It scarcely seems to creep so much about the trees after food as our English Tits.

PARUS NIGER, V.

a, ♂. Bamangwato, October 18th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs lead-colour ; iris dark hazel.

COLIUS ERYTHROMELON, V.

a, *b*, ♂ ♀. Transvaal, July 5th, 1873.

Beak red at base, black at tip ; orbital space red ; legs red ; iris dark hazel.

Very common throughout the Transvaal ; found in flocks of six or eight or more ; they fly with a rapid and straight flight, and, when disturbed, generally all go off together.

NECTARINIA FAMOSA (L.).

♂. Drakenberg, Natal, December 19th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Only seen in this one place, but most likely a summer visitant. About here I found several pairs living amongst the thick patches of bush along the small streams that run down the side of the Drakenberg. They were restless, but not at all shy.

NECTARINIA BIFASCIATA (Shaw).

a, ♂, *b*, ♀. Towanni River, Bamangwato, October 23, 1873.

Bill black ; legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Quite the commonest Sun-bird from north of Pretoria into the Matabili country. They were generally to be seen in pairs, or perhaps two cocks chasing a hen. Like all dark-coloured Sun-birds, the beautiful plumage of the male is only to be seen on a near approach. From a specimen I have in my collection it would appear that the male changes from the sober colours of the female into his own lovely hues in October. The habits of all the Sun-birds seem to be similar, very lively and restless, rarely remaining long in one tree, unless attracted by an abundance of flowers, in which no doubt their food is to be found. The males are much shyer than the females. I did not observe this species in Natal.

NECTARINIA GUTTURALIS (L.).

♂. Matabili, October 8th, 1873.

I only met with this bird in the Matabili country about the Imquisi and Samouqui rivers ; and even there they were not very abundant. The young male gets the scarlet plumage on the throat first, the feathers of the back being of a light greyish brown.

NECTARINIA TALATALA, Smith.

♂ ♀ . Bamangwato, October 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Common in the Bamangwato districts, where they are generally to be seen in pairs.

PARISOMA SUBCÆRULEUM (Gm.).

♀ . Transvaal, July 3rd, 1873.

Beak black ; legs black ; iris white.

A very common species from Natal to the Matabili land. It creeps and hops about the bushes, never flying far at a time.

BATIS CAPENSIS (L.), Sharpe, Ibis, 1873, p. 161.

♂ . Natal, May 17th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris orange.

Only seen on this occasion.

BATIS MOLITOR (Hahn & Küst.), Sharpe, *l. c.* p. 166.

♂ . Bamangwato, November 5th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris lemon yellow.

A common species from the Transvaal up to the Matabili country. They are generally seen in pairs ; and in the stomach of one I found the remains of locusts.

COTYLE PALUDICOLA (V.).

♀ . Pietermaritzburg, Natal, May 3rd, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Obtained out of a flock, near a small stream ; there is no difference in their appearance from the common Sand Martin.

COTYLE CINCTA (Bodd.).

♂ . Drakenberg, Natal, December 19th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

A summer migrant apparently, as I only saw them on our return journey ; they were not particularly abundant, a few pairs only being seen together in this one spot.

DICRURUS MUSICUS, V.

♂ . Transvaal, July 1st, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark red.

Very common from the north of Pretoria into the Matabili

country. It is a bold bird, driving any Crow or bird of prey from its vicinity. This species is an early builder, as I found full-grown young ones in a nest on the 28th of November; the nest was placed in the fork of a branch, and seemed very small for the young birds; the parents sat in the tree close to me while I was inspecting the nest. This birds sits on a branch of a tree, high up, on the look-out for insects, which it catches on the wing and then returns to its perch. They are generally found in pairs.

NILAUS BRUBRU (Lath.).

♂. Matabili, September 29th, 1873.

♂. Shashai, September 13th, 1873.

Beak and legs horn-colour; iris hazel.

The Shashai specimen had the beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

A common species in the Matabili country.

DRYOSOPUS CUBLA (Lath.).

a, ♂. Limpopo, November 15th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris red.

b, ♂. Matabili, September 22nd, 1873.

Beak blackish grey.

PRIONOPS TALACOMA, Smith.

♀. Transvaal, November 30th, 1873.

Beak black; legs brick-red; iris lemon-yellow; fringe round the eye yellow.

A common species north of Pretoria into the Matabili country. They go in flocks from bush to bush, and feed alike in the trees and on the ground. They are by no means shy.

LANIARIUS SULFUREIPECTUS (Less.).

a, ♂. Limpopo, November 12th, 1873.

Beak black; legs lead-colour; iris dark hazel.

Shot creeping about the bushes on the Limpopo river; tolerably common.

LANIARIUS ATROCOCCINEUS (Burch.).

a, ♀. Bamangwato, August 23rd, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

b, ♀. Transvaal, July 16, 1873.

Very common in the bush-country north of Pretoria, up to the Matabili country. Its note and habits were the same as the West-African *L. barbarus*.

LANIUS COLLURIO, L.

♂ ♀. Limpopo, November 1873.

Common south of Bamangwato on our return journey; it is probably only a summer migrant.

LANIUS COLLARIS, Gm.

a, ♂ ad. Pietermaritzberg, May 3, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

b, ♂ juv. Transvaal, July 4th, 1873.

TELEPHONUS ERYTHROPTERUS (Shaw).

a, ♂. Bamangwato, August 21st, 1873.

Beak black; legs grey; iris purple.

b, ♀. Gooqui River, Bamangwato, August 25th, 1873.

Soft parts as above.

Fairly common throughout Bamangwato; in its habits it was identical with those I met with on the west coast in Fantee.

The female specimen is in the brown-headed plumage described by Smith as *Telephonus trivirgatus*. She is much smaller than the male; but I could not quite determine whether she belonged to a different species, as I shot both birds in the same country, and their habits were the same.

EUROCEPHALUS ANGITIMENS, Smith.

♂. Towanni River, Bamangwato, October 23rd, 1873.

Beak black; legs dark brown; iris dark hazel.

Found in the Bamangwato and Matabili countries. I only observed this fine Shrike on two or three occasions; at one time there were three or four of them together, hawking after insects apparently, and returning to the same branch, like a Fly-catcher. They were rather shy, and it was some time before I secured one. Their flight is undulating.

UROLESTES CISSOIDES (Licht.).

a, ♀. Transvaal, July 7th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

Very common through the Transvaal. I have often seen as many as ten together in one bush ; when flying they look exactly like Magpies.

PHOLIDAUGES VERREAUXI, Bocage.

♂. Gooqui river, Bamangwato, October 16th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs brownish black ; iris lemon-yellow.

This was the only specimen obtained ; and there was only one more seen.

AMYDRUS BICOLOR (Gm.).

♂ ♀. Newcastle, Natal, June 3rd, 1873.

Beak, gape, and lower part of under mandible yellow, the rest black ; legs black ; iris yellow.

The yellow in the beak of the female is less bright. These birds are very common, going about in straggling flocks. Their movements on the ground are lively, resembling those of *Sturnus vulgaris* ; the note is something like the chatter of a Fieldfare. I do not remember having met with this species out of Natal.

LAMPROCOLIUS PHENICOPTERUS (Sw.).

a, ♂. Natal, May 22, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris lemon-yellow.

b, ♂. Limpopo, November 17th, 1873.

c, ♂. Tatti, October 11th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs dark brown.

Very common from Natal to the Matabili country, but I never saw them in any very large flocks. They breed in October in hollow trees, and seem to lay about three eggs.

LAMPROTORNIS AUSTRALIS (Sm.).

♂. Transvaal, July 8th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Very common in the north of the Transvaal, building under the eaves of the houses in Pretoria.

DILOPHUS CARUNCULATUS (Gm.).

♂. Serule, Bamangwato, August 28th, 1873.

Beak light brown ; legs dark brown ; iris dark hazel.

I only met with this species on this one occasion, when I secured three out of a small flock near a water-hole.

BUPHAGA AFRICANA, L.

♀. Matabili, September 23rd, 1873.

Beak, base yellow, tip red ; legs black ; iris orange-red.

Common in the north of the Transvaal right up into the Matabili country. This bird is a great nuisance at times to cattle, from its habit of pecking holes in them ; they run over a bullock as easily as a Woodpecker on a tree, picking out the ticks which infest them. Over a bullock's back you may see three or four of these birds' heads reconnoitering you on your approach ; so tame are they, that the one in question was killed by one of our natives, with a stick, from a horse's back. This species is continually with the Rhinoceros, and when the animal is disturbed, the birds hover over it as it runs, keeping up a continual twitter.

CORVUS ALBICOLLIS, Lath. : Layard, p. 167.

CORVUS SCAPULATUS, Daud. : Layard, p. 168.

Both equally common, affecting the open plains and neighbourhood of towns more than the bush-country.

CORVUS SEGETUM, Temm.

Not nearly so common as the two preceding species, nor did I ever observe them in flocks.

TEXTOR ERYTHORHYNCHUS, Smith.

♂. Transvaal : July 16, 1873.

Beak red ; legs red ; iris dark hazel.

Very common on the Limpopo, where they are to be found in winter in flocks, and in summer breeding in the largest trees along the river-bank. Their nests are very large, and seem to be composed of sticks ; but as the trees in which they build are very thorny, like nearly every tree in Africa, I was unable to examine them. These birds breed in small colonies.

HYPHANTORNIS CAPITALIS (Lath.).

α, β, ♂. Limpopo, November 22nd & 23rd, 1873.

Bill black ; legs flesh-coloured ; iris dark hazel.

Not observed on my way up the country ; so it perhaps only comes here to nest. These birds breed in colonies, a tree by

the river-side being literally covered by their pendulous nests, which are very slightly constructed of grass. Their eggs are blue speckled with dark brown.

HYPHANTORNIS NIGRIFRONS, Cab.

a, ♂. Matabili, September 29th, 1873.

Bill black; legs brown; iris reddish.

b, ♀. Tatti, October 10th, 1873.

Bill and legs dark brown; iris reddish brown.

c, *d*, ♂. Bamangwato, October 14th, 1873.

Bill and legs brown; iris yellowish white.

e, *f*, ♂. Bamangwato, October 14, 1873.

Bill black; legs brown; iris yellowish white.

These birds were very common through the Bamangwato district, and when first met with had scarcely got their full plumage. The difference in the colour of the bill and iris may be attributed to difference of age.

HYPHANTORNIS CAPENSIS (Gm.).

♂. Transvaal, December 16th, 1873.

Beak black; legs light brown; iris light straw-colour.

Apparently not very common, but generally to be seen singly about water in the marshes.

PLOCEPASSER MAHALI, Smith.

♂. Matabili land, September 8th, 1873.

Beak horn-colour; legs brown; iris dark red.

First met with on the Limpopo. They build large nests of dried yellow grass in the flat tops of the mimosas, several pairs occupying the same tree. Most of these nests have a hole right through, and seem only used for roosting in, as there is no place for eggs; it is the older-looking nests that contain the eggs, which are pink, speckled with light brown; these nests have only one entrance. The male has a short but sweet song.

SPOROPIPES SQUAMIFRONS (Smith).

♂. Matabili; September 29th, 1873.

Beak rose-colour; legs greyish brown; iris dark brown.

A common bird in the Bamangwato and Matabili countries.

EUPLECTES CAPENSIS (L.).

♂. Drakenberg, Natal, December 19th, 1873.

Beak black ; legs dark brown ; iris dark hazel.

A common bird from Natal to the Matabili. In the young male the beak is brown and the legs of a lighter colour ; but this is most likely the winter colouring as well ; the feathers are then almost uniformly of a brown colour, the rump and shoulders of the wing bearing traces of yellow.

EUPLECTES ORYX (L.).

♂. Transvaal, December 16, 1873.

Beak black ; legs light brown ; iris dark hazel.

A very common species in the Transvaal, breeding in large colonies among the reeds in the "vleys," where there was always water between them and the bank. It was a pretty sight to see the splendidly coloured males flying in every direction ; on being disturbed they generally took a long turn over the land and then returned to their nests. The latter are constructed of dried grass, domed over, with a hole at the side ; the eggs, three in number, are blue spotted slightly with brown.

VIDUA PRINCIPALIS (L.).

a, ♂. Natal, December 27th, 1873.

Beak crimson ; legs greyish black ; iris dark hazel.

b, ♂. Drakenberg, December 20th, 1873.

I do not remember meeting this Whydah bird out of Natal ; it was common in the latter country.

VIDUA REGIA, L.

a, ♂. Limpopo, Nov. 15, 1873.

Beak pink ; legs pinkish brown ; iris dark hazel.

CHERA PROGNE (Bodd.).

One of the commonest, and at the same time the most noticeable Weaverbird in the Transvaal, north of which country we did not meet with it. Their long tails form an incumbrance in a high gale of wind, so that they may almost be run down. We found the males very common during the breeding-season, but never succeeded in securing a female. The natives call this bird *Sac-a-bula*, and prize its long tail-feathers as an ornament for their hair.

VIDUA ARDENS (Bodd.).

a, ♂. Drakenberg, December 20th, 1873.

Bill and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

I only met with this bird on our return journey. It frequents marshy land on the sides of streams.

UROBACHYA AXILLARIS (Smith).

This bird I only saw on my way down close to Pietermaritzburg ; but having no gun, I never procured a specimen ; when flying it resembled *C. progne* minus the long tail.

ESTRElda CYANOASTRA (Daud.).

♀. Matabili, September 29th, 1873.

Beak purple ; legs light brown ; iris orange-red.

Very common through the Transvaal into the Matabili country. It is a rather more conspicuous species than some of the other small Finches.

ESTRElda GRANATINA (L.).

♀. Matabili, September 29th, 1873.

Beak red ; legs black ; iris orange-red.

Common in the Matabili country, where they go about in small flocks.

PYTELIA MELBA (L.).

♀. Bamangwato, October 26th, 1873.

Beak crimson ; legs brown ; iris red.

Met with, though not very abundantly, throughout the Bamangwato and Matabili countries. They seem to be very unobtrusive in their habits.

PASSER —, sp.

I once found three or four pairs of Sparrows building in some old trees near the Limpopo ; I procured one, but it was too much injured to be of any use. I do not remember having met with them again. The one I shot resembled *P. simplex*, which is the common species on the Gold Coast, and was most likely *P. diffusus*.

FRINGILLARIA FLAVIVENTRIS (V.).

♂. Transvaal, July 4th, 1873.

Beak horn-colour above, light brown beneath ; legs light brown ; iris dark hazel.

Met with sparingly in the bush "veldt" north of Pretoria into the Bamangwato district, but not found in any great abundance. It seems to be rather solitary in its habits.

FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI (Smith).

♂ ♀. Transvaal, November 29th and 30th, 1873.

Beak horn-colour above, lower mandible yellow ; legs brownish yellow ; iris dark hazel.

Not observed on my way up, and on my return only seen in the Transvaal.

ALAUDA CINEREA (Gm.).

♂. Pietermaritzburg, Natal, May 2nd, 1873.

Beak, base brown, tip black ; legs dark brown ; iris dark hazel.

I only saw these birds here ; there was a scattered flock, of which I procured these two males and one female ; they run fast and are extremely difficult to see.

CERTHILAUDA SEMITORQUATA, Smith.

a, ♂. Transvaal, June 16th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris dark hazel.

Not very common, I fancy. This was the only specimen I obtained ; and I observed only one or two more. This one was shot on the side of a small hill among some stones ; its flight was undulating.

ALAUDA NÆVIA, Strickl.

a, ♂. Transvaal, July 5th, 1873.

Beak horn-colour ; legs brown ; iris hazel.

b, ♂. Transvaal, July 8th, 1873.

Beak horn-colour ; legs flesh-colour ; iris dark hazel.

c, ♂. Transvaal, July 10, 1873.

Legs light brown ; iris hazel.

d. ♀. Bamangwato, October 15th 1873.

Beak brown ; Legs light brown ; iris light hazel.

Specimen a is of a rufous tinge all over, from the nature of the ground on which it was shot. These birds agree with a

Transvaal specimen shot by Mr. Ayres, and now in Mr. Sharpe's collection.

These birds are very common north of Pretoria, sitting on bushes quite as much as on the ground; they are mostly solitary, even a pair being rarely seen together, except in the breeding-season. They range as far as the Matabili country.

ALAUDA AFRICANA, Smith.

a, ♀. Natal, May 22nd, 1873.

Bill horn-colour; legs light brown; iris hazel.

ANTHUS PYRRHONOTUS, Vieill. : Gurney, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 156; Layard, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 228.

Anthus erythronotus, Steph. : Sharpe, *Cat.* p. 72.

♂. Bushman's River, Natal, May 21st, 1873.

Beak black above, brown beneath; legs brown; iris hazel.

ANTHUS CAFFER, Sund.

a, ♀. Pietermaritzburg, May 2nd, 1873.

Beak blackish brown; legs light brown; iris dark hazel.

Common through Natal and the Transvaal. I once found a nest at Pretoria, which I believe belonged to this species. The nest itself was the same in appearance as that of the Meadow Pipit, but the eggs rather more streaked than those of that bird.

MACRONYX CAPENSIS (L.).

♂. Transvaal, December 9th, 1873.

Beak horn-colour; legs brown; iris dark hazel.

Very common through Natal and the "High Veldt," part of the Transvaal. They are found singly or in pairs, and fly with several very rapid beats of the wing together, uttering their call note all the time, which is exactly what Layard calls "mewing."

COLUMBA PHÆONOTUS, Gray, *Hand-l. B.* ii. p. 234.

a, ♂. Natal, June 5th, 1873.

Beak black; iris light brown.

I only procured one; but in the north of the Transvaal I saw a large flock. On our return journey I found some Pigeons, evidently of this species, at the same place, breeding in a cave.

ŒNA CAPENSIS (L.).

♂. Transvaal, July 3rd, 1873.

Beak orange-red ; legs pink ; iris dark red.

These pretty Doves were first observed a day's journey from Pretoria, and, although never in very large flocks, were very common. I met with them at the Tatti, in the Matabili country.

PTEROCLES GUTTURALIS, Smith.

a, b, ♂. Transvaal, July 11th, 1873.

Beak black ; iris dark brown.

First met with about two days' journey by bullock-waggon from the Limpopo, in the north of the Transvaal. They go about in small flocks in the open country. Their note is very like the croaking of a Woodcock, but much louder. In the evening they begin to fly down to their watering-places.

PTEROCLES BICINCTUS, Temm.

a, b, ♂ ♀. Transvaal, July 20th, 1873.

Beak yellow ; iris dark hazel.

Very common from the Limpopo to the Matabili. In the evening they come down in immense flocks to the water-holes to drink. During the day they are mostly found in pairs, or at most three together ; they rise sharply from the ground, uttering a somewhat creaking note.

EUPODOTIS CÆRULESCENS (V.).

♂. Transvaal, June 21st, 1873.

Beak, base horn-colour, tip black ; legs yellowish brown ; iris hazel.

Common throughout the high country of the Transvaal, but not met with in the bush by me. This bird goes in small families, three or four being found together ; but, from their habit of running, they rarely all rise on the wing together.

EUPODOTIS AFROIDES, Smith.

Common throughout the north of the Transvaal. During the breeding-season the male flies about making a most peculiar noise, something like a small drum being beaten with one stick.

EUPODOTIS RUFICRISTA (Smith).

a, ♂. Transvaal, July 6th, 1873.

Upper mandible black, lower one yellowish white; legs greenish yellow; iris light stone-colour.

This Bustard is common from the north of the Transvaal to the Matabili country, and is a bush-loving species. It breeds about October or November, and lays either one or two eggs.

NUMIDA CORNUTA, Finsch & Hartl. Vög. O.-Afr. p. 569 (1870).

Very common from the Limpopo to the Bamangwato district; and on one occasion I must have seen about two hundred on the wing together. In the evening they come to the water-holes to drink, and roost in the trees close by. They are capital eating.

FRANCOLINUS SUBTORQUATUS, Smith.

a, ♂. Bamangwato, July 29th, 1873.

Beak black, yellow at base of under mandible; legs yellow; iris light brown.

Found in Natal and the Transvaal, and fairly common up to the Matabili country, but, from the extreme difficulty in flushing them, not often seen. When once up, however, they go off as quickly as a Partridge in November.

FRANCOLINUS SWAINSONI, Smith.

First met with two or three days north of Pretoria, and thence common in all suitable localities into the Matabili country; this is the bird called "Pheasant" by the colonists. In the older males the throat is bare for an inch or more, and is of a dirty red colour. These birds are generally found in coveys; they are very quick runners, and it requires a good deal of exertion on one's part to flush them.

FRANCOLINUS PILEATUS, Smith.

a, ♂. Mackloetze river, Bamangwato, August 16th, 1873.

Beak black; legs light red; iris dark hazel.

Very common, going about in coveys; in the evening they may be heard calling in all directions from the trees. Found from the Limpopo up to the Matabili country.

FRANCOLINUS NATALENSIS, Smith.

a, b, ♂ ♀. Transvaal, July 3rd, 1873.

Beak and legs red ; iris dark hazel.

The commonest Francolin throughout the Transvaal up to the Matabili country.

TURNIX LIPURANA (Smith).

I saw this bird on several occasions in the Matabili country ; they are generally to be found in pairs.

CHETTUSIA LATERALIS (Smith).

a, ♂. Transvaal November 27th, 1873.

Beak greenish, black at tip ; legs lemon-yellow ; iris dirty straw-colour ; upper wattle scarlet, lower one light yellow.

Only seen in this one locality on our way down. From what I saw of its habits they seem to resemble those of *Hoplopterus coronatus*.

HOPLOPTERUS ARMATUS, J. & S.

a, b, ♂ ♀. Transvaal, December 8th, 1873.

Beak and legs black ; iris crimson.

Common in suitable localities from the Transvaal to the Matabili country. Generally to be found either in pairs or in companies of five or six. Watchful and noisy in their habits, though not shy. They breed on the banks of rivers or near marshes.

HOPLOPTERUS CORONATUS (Temm.).

a, ♂. Natal, March 14, 1873.

Beak pink, black at tip ; legs pink ; iris light yellow.

Common throughout Natal and the Transvaal, going about in flocks in the winter.

CHARADRIUS TRICOLLARIS, V.

a, ♂. Natal, May 22nd, 1873.

Beak orange-red at base, black at tip ; legs pink ; iris light brown.

b, ♂. Transvaal, December 9th, 1873.

Beak as above ; legs flesh-coloured ; iris dark hazel ; rim round the eye brick-red.

Common throughout Natal and the Transvaal, frequenting the banks of streams, but never more than two or three seen together.

ŒDICNEMUS MACULOSUS, Temm.

a, ♂. Natal, May 30th, 1873.

Beak black, yellow at base; legs yellow; iris light yellow.

Found both in the bush and open country throughout Natal and the Transvaal.

GLAREOLA NORDMANNI, Fisch.

a, ♂. Transvaal, December 8th, 1873.

Beak black; legs brownish black; iris dark hazel.

Very common on our return journey; found in large flocks on the high ground of the Transvaal. They have a very bold flight, more like that of a Hawk than a Plover.

NUMENIUS ARQUATUS (L.).

Only once observed by me, and that on the morning when I took the eggs of *Balearica regulorum*; there were about seven or eight in a small flock.

TOTANUS GLOTTIS (L.).

Fairly common along the Limpopo, where I have often seen them and heard their well-known cry.

PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX (L.).

Observed in large flocks on our way down through the Transvaal, where we obtained several specimens.

GALLINAGO ÆQUATORIALIS, Rüpp.

a, *b*, ♂ ♀. Pietermaritzberg, May 2nd, 1873.

Beak black; legs brownish green; iris dark hazel.

Common in suitable places throughout Natal and the Transvaal. Their note resembles that of the English Snipe.

CREX PRATENSIS, Bechst.

Ortygometra crex, Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 338.

a, ♂. Drakenberg, Natal, December 19th, 1873.

Beak and legs flesh-colour; iris light hazel.

The only specimen met with; and I never heard its familiar call in South Africa.

FULICA CRISTATA, Gm.

Two specimens obtained in the Transvaal, where they are fairly common.

BALEARICA REGULORUM (Licht.).

Pretty common throughout the open country of the Transvaal, and called by the Dutch "Māhem." One morning, on the 12th of November last year, seeing some Black Wildebeests on the other side of a valley, I set out after them, but found, to my disgust, that the way was blocked by a channel of water, on either side of which were tall reeds. As I was walking along looking in vain for an opening to get across, I flushed one of these birds from a small open space among the reeds; going to the place I found a large floating nest composed of dried reeds, in the centre of which were two eggs of a white colour tinged slightly with blue; these, after some little difficulty in wading to the nest, I obtained. The nest had no lining whatever.

TETRAPTERYX PARADISEA (Licht.).

Not uncommon in the open country of the Transvaal, where it is generally to be seen in pairs. They are so wary that I never obtained a specimen.

CICONIA ALBA, L.

On our return journey we found immense flocks of these birds frequenting the sandbanks and grassy places along the Limpopo, and procured one specimen.

SCOPUS UMBRETTA (Gm.).

a, ♀. Transvaal, June 8th, 1873.

Beak and legs black; iris dark hazel.

In the summer I found these birds breeding on the banks of the Limpopo, making an immense nest in trees, which, being mostly composed of thorns, is extremely difficult to get into. One of them, which I managed to storm with great difficulty, was neatly lined inside with mud, and contained three young birds covered with white down. In the winter this bird is found wherever there is a pool of water; and though generally alone, it is not at all shy.

ARDEA CINEREA, L.

Fairly common on the Limpopo, where I observed several pairs and obtained one specimen, of which, however, I only preserved the feathers of the neck and the upper wing-coverts.

ARDEA PURPUREA, L.

Common through the open country of the Transvaal, building among the tall reeds of the "sluits" that are generally to be found in the hollows of the undulating ground.

ARDEA ALBA, L.

A few pairs seen along the Limpopo during the summer.

ARDEOLA COMATA (Pall.).

a, ♂. Bamangwato, August 19th, 1873.

Beak yellowish, black towards tip of culmen; legs greenish yellow; iris light yellow.

b, ♂. Transvaal, July 11th, 1873.

Distributed through the country and found only singly.

CHENALOPEX ÆGYPTIACUS (L.).

Seen in pairs on the sandbanks of the Limpopo; they are very wary, and begin to sound the note of alarm long before one can see them; one which we obtained was shot from a nest in a tree, where it was doubtless sitting on its eggs.

PLECTROPTERUS GAMBENSIS (L.).

We obtained one specimen which, I believe, belonged to this species. In size it resembled a Goose; and the general colour was black. We often used to see birds, I suppose, of this species in the marshes of the Transvaal. From their colour they were very conspicuous, but very shy.

ANAS FLAVIROSTRIS, Smith.

Mooi River, Natal, May 19, 1873.

Beak black, with a yellow patch down the middle of the upper mandible; legs black; iris light orange.

The commonest Duck throughout Natal and the Transvaal, and by no means wary. Its flesh is excellent.

ANAS SPARSA, Smith.

Natal, May 15, 1873.

Iris dark hazel.

A common Duck, going about generally in pairs; they rise heavily, like a Pochard. I only saw them south of Pretoria.

STERNA LEUCOPTERA.

a, ♂. Transvaal, December 9th, 1873.

Beak black; legs orange-yellow; iris dark hazel.

Seen in the Transvaal, on our way down, in flocks frequenting the marshes and lagoons.

PLOTUS LEVAILLANTI?

I obtained one specimen which I can only refer to this species, and observed several more; they frequented the "sluits" and pools of water of the Transvaal.

PELECANUS —.

I once or twice saw Peleicans soaring high in the air in circles. At Bamangwato I saw a skin of one, which I unfortunately neglected to obtain; I was told it came from the lake (Lake N'gami) where it breeds, and was only found there.

STRUTHIO AUSTRALIS.

Still common, but very much hunted for the feathers, which, with ivory, are the two principal articles of trade with the Kaffirs. Ostriches seem to lay from August to October, as the natives bring in their eggs during all that time. The stride of an Ostrich is enormous, being equal to about three steps of a man. They are generally seen in pairs.

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XXXIX.—*Ornithological Notes on the North-Frisian Islands and adjacent Coast.* By HENRY DURNFORD.

BEING desirous last spring of making an egg-collecting expedition, my brother and I pitched upon the North-Frisian Islands, lying off the coast of Schleswig, as the scene of our operations. Several English ornithologists have before visited them; but, as far as I am aware, no account of them has